

Dear Michael Powell,

I have just learned that you consider the FCC to be prohibitive to corporate media. Forgive me, but it has always been my understanding that the FCC is supposed to regulate the PUBLIC airwaves so that the media using the PUBLIC airwaves, operates in the best interest of the PUBLIC.

You have called the cross-ownership ban "extremely prohibitive," and said you see no reason a city's TV station and newspaper shouldn't be controlled by the same company. Indeed, media corporations routinely make deals that violate existing law, so confident are they of the current anti-regulatory climate-- "skating where the puck is going to be," is how one industry analyst described it (L.A. Times, 9/14/01).

Corporate interest and PUBLIC interest have never been one and the same. If you operate the FCC in corporate interests, then you are violating the purpose of the FCC. This is a disgusting abuse of power both by you (the FCC) and the corporate media. Rather than lifting the cross-ownership ban, you should be enforcing it.

I strongly urge you to act in the public interest. If you continue to act against the public interest, I will continue to oppose you.

Sincerely,
Deb Harwood